

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A gate having a frame for bracing at the gate, comprising:
 - said gate having a first, hingedly mounted end and a second, free end that swings with respect to said first, hingedly mounted end;
 - a first upright brace having an outboard edge positioned flush to a first vertical edge of said gate;
 - a second upright brace having an outboard edge positioned flush to a second vertical edge of said gate, said second vertical edge being laterally spaced from said first vertical edge by a width of said gate;
 - a first upper cross brace having a length substantially equal to a width of said gate;
 - said first and second upright braces each having an opening formed therein to receive opposite ends of said first upper cross brace therein;
 - a second upper cross brace having a first end that abuts said first upright brace near an upper end thereof and a second end that abuts said second upright brace near said upper end thereof;
 - said first upper cross brace disposed in abutting, underlying relation to said second upper cross brace;
 - a first lower cross brace having a length substantially equal to a width of said gate;
 - said first and second upright braces each having an opening formed therein to receive opposite ends of said first lower cross brace therein;
 - a second lower cross brace having a first end that abuts said first upright brace near a lower end thereof and a second end that abuts said second upright brace near a lower end thereof;
 - said first lower cross brace disposed in abutting, overlying relation to said second lower cross brace;
 - a first upper mounting member having an outboard end that abuts said first upright brace near said upper end thereof, and having an inboard end that overlies and is secured to said first and second upper cross braces;

a second upper mounting member having a base that abuts said second upright brace near said upper end thereof, and having an inboard end that overlies and is secured to said first and second upper cross braces;

a first lower mounting member having a base that abuts said first upright brace near said lower end thereof, and having an inboard end that overlies and is secured to said first and second lower cross braces; and

a second lower mounting member having a base that abuts said second upright brace near said lower end thereof, and having an inboard end that overlies and is secured to said first and second lower cross braces[.];

said first and second upright braces, said first upper cross brace, and said first lower cross brace being formed of aluminum;

said first upper cross brace and said first lower cross brace being cut to length to substantially equal the width of said gate;

said second upper cross brace and said second lower cross brace being cut to length to fit between said first and second upright braces;

said gate being formed of a plurality of upright slats;

each of said slats being slideably mounted with respect to its contiguous slats so that a second slat may be slightly elevated with respect to a first slat at a hinged end of said gate, a third slat may be slightly elevated with respect to the second slat, and so on until a last slat at the free, swinging end of the gate is elevated substantially higher or lower than said first slat at said hinged end thereof;

said first upper cross brace, said first lower cross brace, said second upper cross brace and said second lower cross brace each having square cut opposite ends when said first slat at said hingedly mounted end of said gate and said last slat at said free, swinging end of the gate, and all intermediate slats are collectively disposed at a substantially common level so that the gate is installed on a substantially level slope;

said first upper cross brace, said first lower cross brace, said second upper cross brace, and said second lower cross brace each having a first end having an acute angle cut formed therein when said last slat is elevated relative to said first slat; and

said first upper cross brace, said first lower cross brace, said second upper cross brace, and said second lower cross brace each having a second end having an obtuse angle cut formed therein when said last slat is elevated relative to said first slat.

2-5 (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The frame of claim 31, further comprising:

said first upper cross brace, said first lower cross brace, said second upper cross brace and said second lower cross brace each having a first end having an obtuse angle cut formed therein when said last slat is positioned at a lower elevation relative to said first slat;

said first upper cross brace, said first lower cross brace, said second upper cross brace and said second lower cross brace each having a second end having an acute angle cut formed therein when said last slat is positioned at said lower elevation relative to said first slat.

7. (currently amended) The frame of claim 1, further comprising:

a first middle mounting member secured to said first upright brace about mid-length thereof;

a second middle mounting member secured to said second upright brace about mid-length thereof; and

a middle cross brace having a first end secured to said first mounting member and a second end secured to said second mounting member[;].

~~said middle cross brace having utility in gates having a width that exceeds a predetermined width.~~

8. (original) The frame of claim 7, further comprising:

said middle cross brace having square cut opposite ends when a first slat at said hingedly mounted end of the gate and a last slat at said free, swinging end of the gate, and all intermediate slats are collectively disposed at a substantially common level so that the gate is installed on a substantially level slope.

9. (original) The frame of claim 7, further comprising:

said middle cross brace having a first end having an acute angle cut formed therein when a last slat at said free, swinging end of said gate is elevated relative to said first slat;

said middle cross brace having a second end having an obtuse angle cut formed therein when said last slat is elevated relative to said first slat.

10. (original) The frame of claim 7, further comprising:

said middle cross brace having a first end having an obtuse angle cut formed therein when a last slat at said free, swinging end of said gate is positioned at a lower elevation than said first slat;

said middle cross brace having a second end having an acute angle cut formed therein when said last slat is positioned at a lower elevation relative to said first slat.

11. (original) The frame of claim 1, further comprising:

said first and second upper mounting members and said first and second lower mounting members having a triangular configuration.

12. (original) The frame of claim 11, further comprising:

an elongate, vertically extending slot formed in an apex of each of said first and second upper mounting members and said first and second lower mounting members.

13. (original) The frame of claim 12, further comprising:

an aperture formed in each of said first and second upper mounting members and said first and second lower mounting members coincident with an axis of symmetry thereof.

14. (original) The frame of claim 13, further comprising:

a plurality of apertures formed in each of said first and second upper mounting members and said first and second lower mounting members near said base of said mounting members on a common side of said aperture formed coincident with said axis coincident with said axis of symmetry.

15-28 (cancelled)